

Filed for intro on 02/15/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House No. HJR0078  
By Buck

A RESOLUTION relative to the restoration and preservation of the  
Readyville Mill.

WHEREAS, the old Readyville Mill, a sentinel of Cannon County's historic past and proud heritage, is slowly deteriorating, as time, weather and natural elements have slowly taken their toll on the mill that was constructed in 1812; and

WHEREAS, according to engineers, the Readyville Mill has moved four (4) inches toward the Stones River, and at the present rate of deterioration, will eventually fall into the river unless corrective action is taken soon; and

WHEREAS, a 1992 report from the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University listed the Readyville Mill as an important resource of learning; and

WHEREAS, this report stated that the Readyville community was fortunate that it has a resource which reminds citizens of their great heritage and that the mill shows great potential to become a vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Readyville Mill was once a lifeline and center of commerce for the community in earlier days, but is part of a dying breed in Middle Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, the Readyville Mill now stands as a historical symbol of the evolution of technology in a community of days gone by; and

WHEREAS, located in the bend of the Stones River at the Rutherford-Cannon County line, the Readyville Mill sits on approximately three (3) acres; the building itself is three (3) stories tall, with a fourth floor being an open attic; and

WHEREAS, the MTSU report states that around the Readyville Mill the landscape still maintains some of its charm with the dam still being intact and trees and hills surrounding the grounds; and

WHEREAS, Charles Ready built the old structure in 1812, and it has withstood the Civil War, tornadoes, floods and numerous other ravages of time and nature, but today the Readyville Mill faces self-destruction as a result of decades of neglect; and

WHEREAS, concerned citizens, including the citizens' action historical preservation group known as Preserve the Area's Rural Qualities or PARQ, have conferred with members of this General Assembly as well as numerous other local, state and federal government elected officials and administrators in an effort to secure adequate funding for the restoration and continued preservation of this historical landmark; and

WHEREAS, the loss of this significant historical landmark and irreplaceable heirloom of the area's proud heritage, as represented by the Readyville Mill, due to neglect, apathy and inaction would indeed be a preventable tragedy for the good people of Readyville and Cannon County, as well as the entire State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, now that this matter has come to the attention of this Body, it is only appropriate that we should take action to determine state government's proper role in the restoration and preservation of this Readyville Mill; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is hereby requested to conduct a study to determine the potential costs associated with and the feasibility of restoring and preserving the Readyville Mill, and to determine the proper role of state government in such restoration and continued preservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That as part of such study, the Department of Environment and Conservation should endeavor to identify federal and state grant funds and other public moneys available for the restoration and continued preservation of historical landmarks such as the Readyville Mill, and should also examine the feasibility of establishing the restored Readyville Mill as a state natural area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation should report its findings and recommendations relative to such study, including any proposed legislation, to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1996.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Environment and Conservation.